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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-9, and 12-15 stand rejected while Claims 4-6, 10, 11, and 16-20 are allowable but objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Dependent Claims 5, 11, 15, and 16 have been cancelled, but their limitations have been incorporated into their respective base Claims. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 13, and 17-20 remain pending. All Claims are in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103: The Examiner Rejected Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 12-15 under §102 as being unpatentable over USPN 4,709,250 issued to Takeuchi in view of USPN 5,581,358 issued to Seto.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 5, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. Consequently, Claim 1 is in condition for allowance as are Claims 2-4 and 5 which depend from Claim 1.

Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 11, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. Consequently, Claim 7 is in condition for allowance as are Claims 8-10 which depend from Claim 7.

Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 15 and 16. Claim 16 has been deemed allowable by the Examiner. Consequently, Claim 12 is in condition for allowance as are Claims 13, 14, and 17-20 which depend from Claim 12.

CONCLUSION: The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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Response To Office Action
Serial No. 09/923,503

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